

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 801

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: SA CARNEIRO IN OPORTO

REF: (A) LISBON 0908 (DTG 101605Z FEB 76), (B) OPORTO 0068

(DTG 121730Z FEB 76), (C) 75 OPORTO 0412 (DTG 101802Z DEC 75)

1. POPULAR DEMOCRATIC RALLY: ESTIMATED CROWD OF OVER 10,000
ALMOST FILLED OPORTO'S CRYSTAL PALACE FEB 13 IN EVENING RALLY
ORGANIZED BY POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PPD). TWO THEMES DOMINATED
SPEECHES BY PPD SEC GEN SA CARNEIRO AND OTHERS: DEFENSE OF PPD'S
POLICY OF "SOCIAL DEMOCRACY" AS ONLY VIABLE PATH FOR PORTUGAL
AND STRONG ATTACK ON SOCIALISTS (PS) AND PS LEADER MARIO SOARES
IN PARTICULAR. SOCIALISTS WERE ACCUSED OF "SOCIAL MARXISM" TRYING
TO FORCE ECONOMIC TOTALITARIANISM ON THE COUNTRY. PS INTEREST
IN SINGLE PARTY RULE AFTER ELECTIONS WAS CONTRASTED WITH PPD
WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO DEMOCRATIC COALITION. ONLY ONE REFERENCE
WAS MADE TO RECENT PPD SPLIT AND NEWLY-FORMED DISSIDENT SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MSD). MSD WAS CRITICIZED AS POSSIBLY BEING
ALLIED WITH PS IN SAME FASHION AS DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP/CDE)
FRONTS FOR THE COMMUNISTS. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST PUBLIC RALLY
IN OPORTO SINCE CREATION OF DISSIDENT MOVEMENT. PPD LOYALISTS
HERE DOWNPLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PARTY DIVISION BY IGNORING
IT. HOWEVER THE SPLIT APPEARS TOO IMPORTANT TO IGNORE (REFTEL A
PARA 2). DESPITE HOMETOWN CROWD AND HEAVY USE OF SOUND TRUCKS,
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SA CARNEIRO BARELY OUTDREW CUNHAL'S RECENT COMMUNIST (PCP)

DEMONSTRATION IN SAME LOCATION. PPD YOUTH DIVISION IN OPORTO, ONCE THE PARTY'S STRONGEST, COULD ONLY MUSTER 500 IN PRE-RALLY MARCH. NONE OF THE PRINCIPAL DISSIDENTS HAVE RETURNED TO PPD FOLD (REFTEL C) AND THIS WAS EVIDENT IN MEDIOCRE CALIBER OF SOME SPEECHES AND SPEAKERS WHO BACKED UP SA CARNEIRO FEB 13.

2. POLITICAL VIOLENCE: DAMAGE IN VILA REAL BOMBING ASSESSED AT OVER \$50,000 (REFTEL B) MAKING BLAST ONE OF MOST COSTLY IN NEW YEAR SERIES. ARRIVAL OF RUSSIAN FREIGHTER THIS WEEK IN OPORTO TO UNLOAD CARGO OF SARDINES HAS BROUGHT ADDED TENSION. SHIP IS MOORED CLOSE TO WHERE RUSSIAN VESSEL WAS BOMBED LAST MONTH. POLICE HOWEVER ARE OUT IN FORCE AND HAVE ALREADY TURNED BACK WITHOUT INCIDENT GROUPS OF IRATE LOCAL FISHERMEN COMPLAINING THAT RUSSIANS ARE POACHING OFF PORTUGUESE SHORES.
PENNER

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